

# 2003 POLITICAL SIGN REGULATIONS

CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Includes:

City of Battle Ground  
City of La Center  
City of Camas  
City of Vancouver  
Clark County  
Washington Dept. of Transportation

# POLITICAL SIGN REGULATIONS

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## CITY OF BATTLE GROUND

The City of Battle Ground's Sign Ordinance identifies election-oriented signage as temporary signage, which are generally exempt from signage regulations and standards specified in Battle Ground Municipal Code Section 17.139. Therefore, the installation of election oriented signage does not require prior approval from the City before they are installed. However, any election-oriented signage should not be located within the public right-of-way, and should be located on private property with the property owner's authorization. Any election-oriented signage that is located within the public right-of-way will be removed.

Further questions regarding signage regulations in the City of Battle Ground should be directed to Dorothy Harrington, Planning/Permit Clerk at 360-342-5041.

### Chapter 17.139: Signs

Subsection 27. Temporary. "temporary sign" means any sign or advertising display constructed of cloth, wood, canvas, light fabric, paper or other materials with or without frames intended to be displayed for a limited time only and not permanently mounted. Temporary signs include special event signs that advertise civic events such as street fairs, community festivals, parades, farmer's markets, charity benefits, signs attached to external window surfaces and that are readily removable, lettering or symbols painted directly onto or flush mounted magnetically onto an operable vehicle, garage sale signs, pennants, real estate signs, reasonable temporary and seasonal decorations, sign sandwich boards, construction signs, election-oriented political signs and new business/location signs or other such similar signs as determined by the Planning Director.

## **CITY OF La CENTER**

### **Sec. 17.70.090 Exempt Signs or Displays**

The following signs or displays are exempted from coverage under this chapter:

(13) Temporary signs endorsing political candidates, bond elections, school levies, fairs, and similar activities ("temporary political/activity" signs) are permitted without restriction; provided such signs shall be removed within 30 days following the election and/or last showing of any fair, show, or similar activity. The owner, manager, or sponsor of any fair, show, or similar activity and the political candidate or any group or organization sponsoring a candidate shall be responsible for the removal of such temporary sign. [Ord. 98-2 § 1(c), 1998.]

### **Sec. 17.70.100 Requirements Applicable to All Signs.**

Subsection 4. Sign obstructing view or passage. No sign shall be located so as to physically obstruct any door, window, or exit from a building. No sign shall be located so as to be hazardous to a motorist's ingress and egress from parking areas of any way open to the public.

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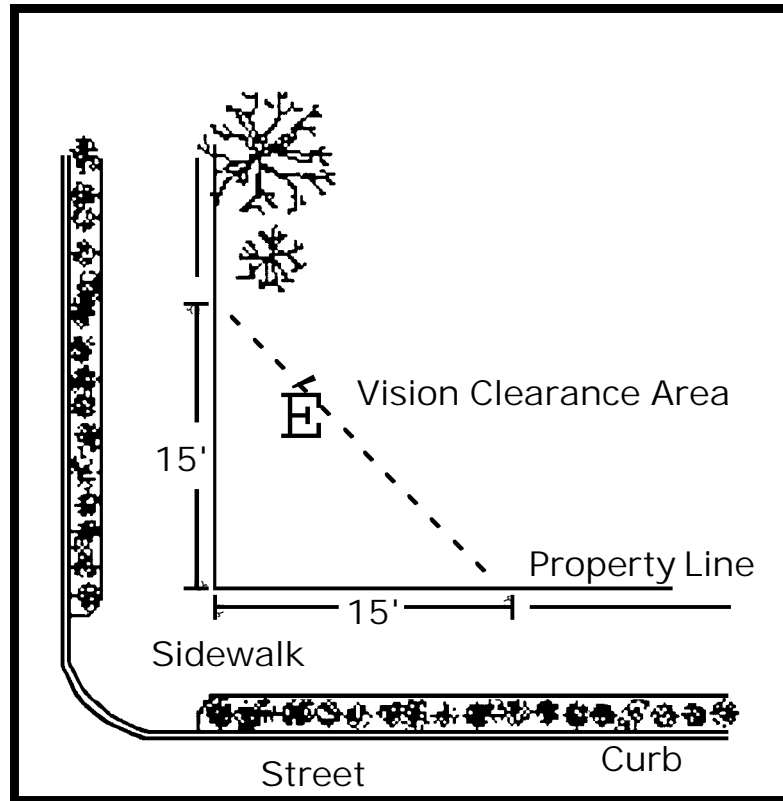
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## **CITY OF CAMAS**

### **Political Signs -**

Camas Municipal Code 18.15.170 exempts political signs from having to obtain a permit. However, the Camas Municipal Code does include the following limitations on the placement of political signs:

One Political sign per candidate per street frontage. Sign surface area shall not exceed six (6) square feet for residential zoning districts and shall not exceed 32 square feet for commercial, industrial, and high technology zones. Political signs may not be placed in public right-of-way, public easements, or any property without the permission of the property owner. Such signs shall be removed 14 days following such election or referendum;



Vision Clearance: Vision clearance areas shall be maintained in all zoning districts except in the DC, CC, RC, and HI zoning districts. Within these zoning districts, vision clearance areas shall be maintained on the corners of all property adjacent to the intersection of two streets, a street and a railroad, or a private street entering a public street. Driveways and alleys are excluded from the provisions of this section.

- A. On all corner lots, no vehicle, fence, wall, hedge or other obstructive structure or planting shall impede visibility between a height of 42 inches and 10 feet above the existing grade. See figure 18.17.030 (2)
- B. The triangular area shall be formed by measuring 15 feet along both street and property lines beginning at their point of intersection. The third side of the triangle shall be a line connecting the end points of the first two sides of the triangle. See figure 18.17.030 (1) and (2).



June 9, 2003

Dear Candidates and Committee Members:

Every political season generates considerable citizen comment regarding the number, construction and placement of political signs during election campaigns. I am writing to familiarize you with Vancouver's sign regulations and policies regarding political signs. I am also writing to urge you to make a voluntary pledge to comply with a program to minimize the visual blight that the political season can engender, especially in some of Vancouver's most beautiful and historic areas.

Vancouver sign regulations prohibit the following:

- Posting of any signs on trees, structures or installations upon a public street. This includes no posting of signs on telephone poles, utility cabinets, fire hydrants, streetlights, or parking meters.
- Posting of any signs on any property (including abutting parking strips) without the consent of the owner or owner's agent.
- Posting of any signs on City owned or leased property without the consent of the City. (See the attached policy regarding "Political Signs on City Property".)
- Placement of any sight obscuring object, including but not limited to signs, within any required yard area between 30 inches and 10 feet above the street grade within the triangular vision clearance area as shown in the attached diagrams.
- Signs and sign support structures that are not constructed to resist being overturned by wind.

I believe that there is widespread community support to go beyond these minimum legal requirements to keep Vancouver's street rights-of-way and public areas free of the clutter of unlimited political signs. You are also no doubt aware of court decisions which limit the ability of the City to limit this unsightly clutter along our City streets.

We are therefor requesting all candidates, promoters and opponents of ballot measures and their campaign committees to voluntarily pledge to abide by Vancouver's voluntary guidelines for political signs and to keep political signs out of the street rights-of-way, especially in Vancouver's most scenic and historic areas. Enclosed is a diagram illustrating recommended sign placement along rights-of-way. We ask that no signs be placed in historic or scenic areas such as Officer's Row and Vancouver's National Historic Reserve.



Royce E. Pollard • Mayor  
Dan Tonkovich • Councilmember  
Pat Jollota • Councilmember  
4 Jeanne Harris • Councilmember

Jeanne Lipton • Councilmember  
Jeanne Stewart • Councilmember  
Tim Leavitt • Councilmember  
Pat McDonnell • City Manager

Also enclosed is a pledge form we are asking you to sign as your promise to Vancouver and its citizens that you will abide by these voluntary guidelines. Please file this form with the City Clerk's Office, 610 Esther Street, Vancouver.

If you have any questions, please call Richard Landis, Development Review Services at 360-619-4148 or visit his office at 1313 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Vancouver. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat McDonnell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pat" being more prominent.

PAT MCDONNELL  
City Manager

Encl: Political Sign Guidelines  
Pledge Form

c: Paul Lewis, City Clerk  
Richard Landis, Development Review Services

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# **City of Vancouver Political Campaign Sign**

## **Regulations and Guidelines**

### **City Ordinances prohibit:**

- Posting of any signs on trees, structures or installations upon a public street. This includes no posting of signs on telephone poles, utility cabinets, fire hydrants, streetlights, or parking meters.
- Posting of any signs on any property (including abutting parking strips) without the consent of the owner or owner's agent.
- Posting of any signs on City owned or leased property without the consent of the City. (See "Political Signs on City Property" below.)
- Placement of any sight obscuring object, including but not limited to signs, within any required yard area between 30 inches and 10 feet above the street grade within the triangular vision clearance area as shown in the attached diagrams.
- Signs and sign support structures that are not constructed to resist being overturned by wind.

### **Political signs on City Property:**

RCW 42.17.130 provides that public facilities may not be used, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition.

In keeping with this prohibition and city ordinance, political signs may not be posted or placed on any City owned or leased property except as follows:

- As part of a political demonstration or similar political event held in a traditional public forum on City owned or leased property. These locations would include those portions of City parks or other City properties which are traditional publicforums. (E.g. The plaza in front of City Hall.) This would not include any Citybuilding or facility that is not a traditional public forum, such as the interior of City Hall, Marshall Center, and other City offices and work facilities.
- To identify or direct participants to a political function in a rented City facility which is generally made available by the City on a content-neutral basis to private or non-profit entities - e.g. rented meeting or banquet rooms at Luepke Center or Marshall Center. Signs shall be subject to the terms of any lease or use agreement for the specific facility and shall bear a notation stating that the event is not sponsored or endorsed by the City of Vancouver.

## **Voluntary Candidate Guidelines:**

The City of Vancouver believes, based on citizen comments, that there is widespread community support for minimizing the clutter of political signs in the public right-of-way. Citizens generally comment that a proliferation of signs obstructs their view of traffic and pedestrians at intersections, makes the community look cluttered and interferes with public travel and convenience when they walk or must maneuver to avoid signs posted in parking strips.

In addition to compliance with the City ordinances and state laws described above, the City of Vancouver asks for the voluntary commitment of candidates, supporters and opponents of ballot measures, and their campaign committees to follow these guidelines:

- To employ best efforts to ensure that political signs will not be placed in street rights-of-way, and in particular those on or near:
  - Parking strips in areas where members of the public enter and exit vehicles.
  - Scenic or historical areas such as Officers' Row, the Vancouver National Historic Reserve area, and City parks and recreation areas. (Those areas of the Reserve which are federal property are governed by different regulations and questions regarding such regulation should be directed to the Department of Defense or National Park Service).
- To employ best efforts to remove political signs from street rights-of-way within fifteen (15) days after the election. (E.g. by making certain that your campaign committee has a master key map of locations and a schedule for picking up signs.)

Attached is a pledge form, which the City asks candidates, committee members, and promoters or opponents of ballot propositions to sign as a voluntary agreement to abide by these guidelines. Please fill out this form and forward it to the City Clerk's Office.

If you have any questions, please call Richard Landis at the Community Development Department, 696-8805 or visit his office at 1313 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Vancouver, WA.



**To: City Clerk's Office  
610 Esther Street**

**File No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Received** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Voluntary Pledge to Comply with Vancouver Political Signs Guidelines**

**WE THE UNDERSIGNED**, hereby voluntarily pledge to comply with the City of  
Vancouver political sign guidelines.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approximate number of signs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF PERSON RUNNING FOR OFFICE OR BALLOT MEASURE:**

\_\_\_\_\_

## **PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVAL OF SIGNS**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Received by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **this** \_\_\_\_\_ **day of** \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

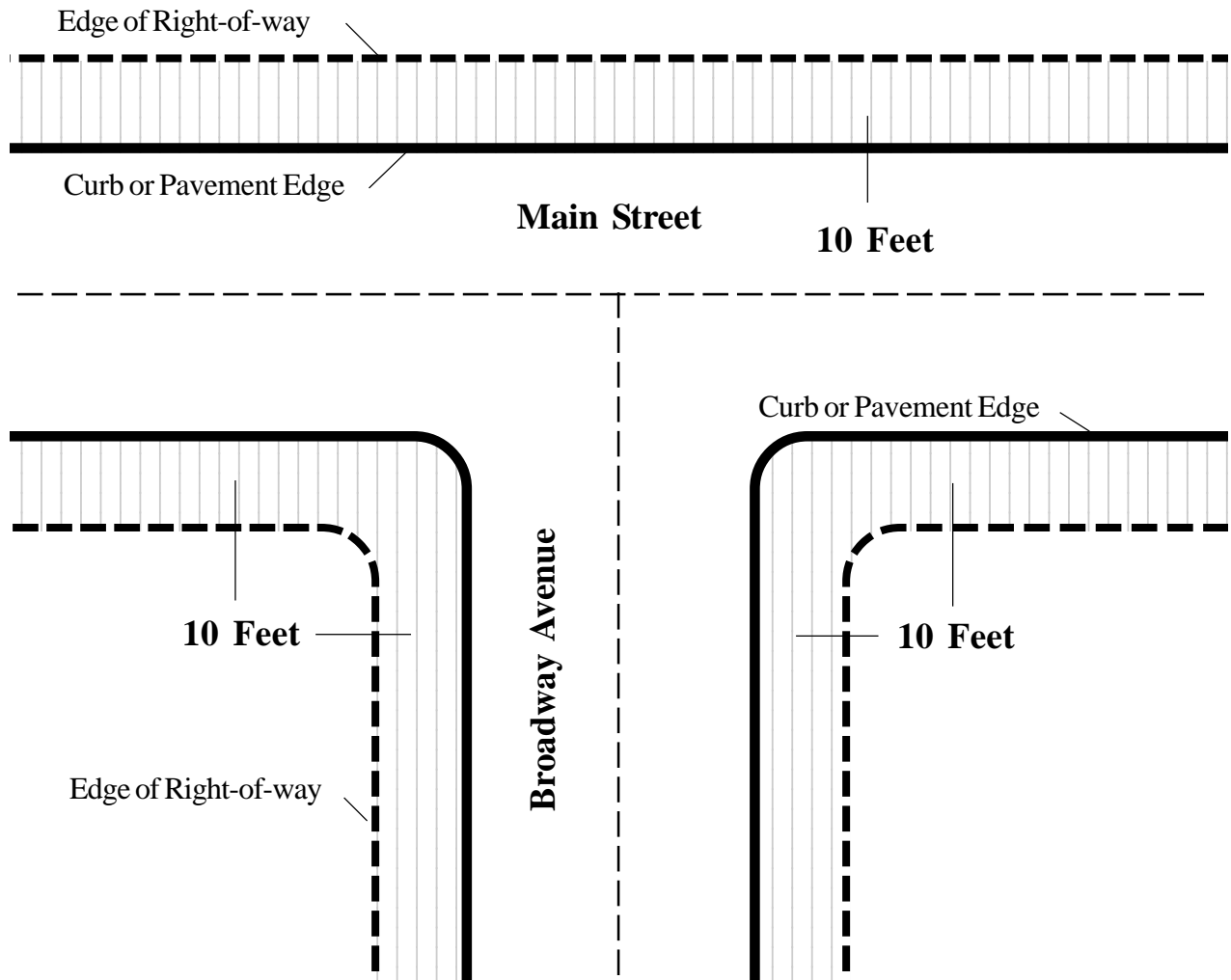
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# ***CITY OF VANCOUVER***

## ***Voluntary Compliance Guideline Diagram***

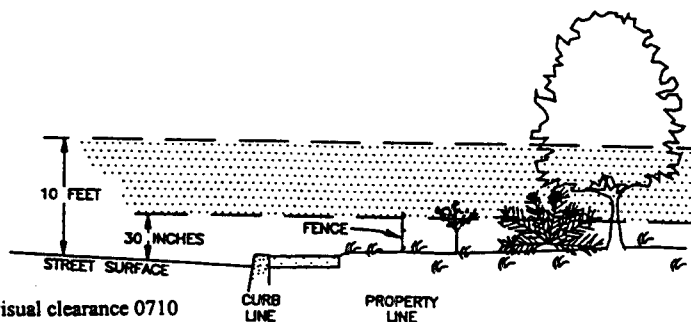
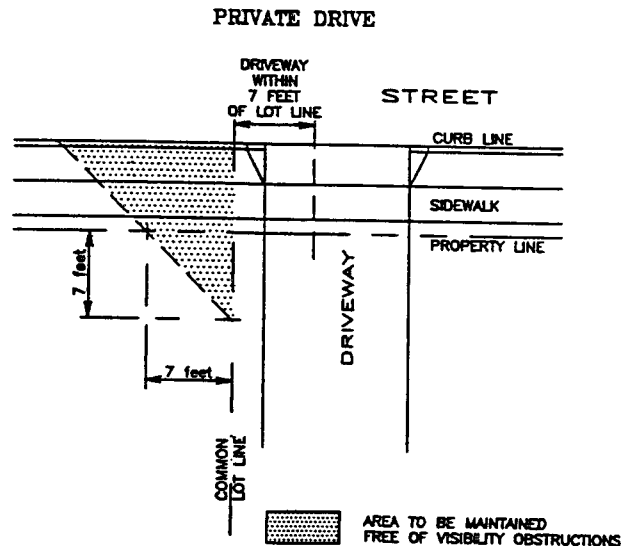
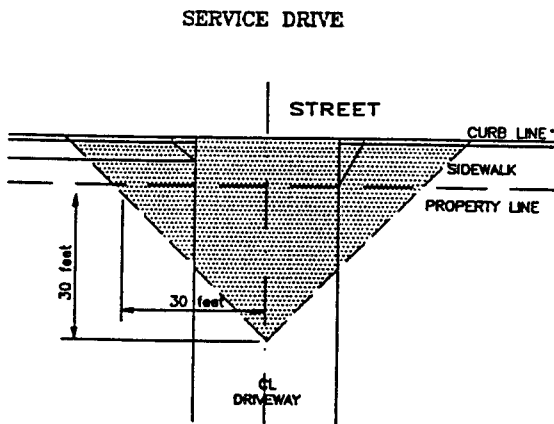
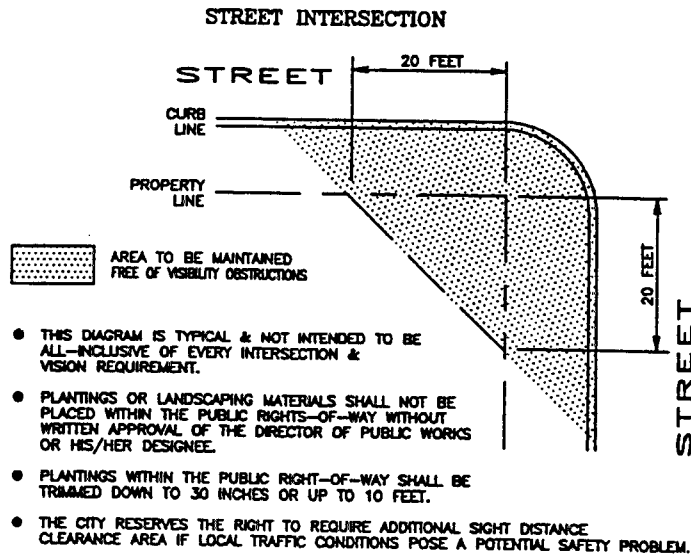
***Please do not place signs within the shaded areas.***



# CITY OF VANCOUVER

## Triangular Vision Clearance Area Diagrams

***VMC 20.93.240 prohibits the placement of signs in such a manner as to obstruct the vision of motorists.***



H:jz/doc/political signs visual clearance 0710



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY  
WASHINGTON

**BOARD OF CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Craig A. Pridemore • Betty Sue Morris • Judie Stanton

July 11, 2003

Dear Candidate and Committee Members:

Election season often prompts questions and concerns about placement of political signs. With this letter we would like to ensure that you are familiar with local regulations, policies and practices, which reflect widespread community support to keep rights of way clear of clutter.

Requirements are as follows:

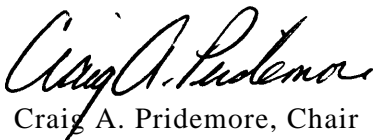
- A special permit must be obtained to place political signs in unincorporated Clark County. Permits are available at no cost from the Department of Community Development, P.O. Box 9810, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, 98666. An application is enclosed with this packet.
- Signs may not be placed in locations that would constitute traffic hazards. Please note that there has been a change in placing signs in commercial areas. This is due to an amendment in the County Development Code.
- Political signs must be removed within 15 days after the election. Campaigns with a master map of sign locations and a pickup schedule will find it easier to comply.
- Signs may be placed only after permission has been obtained from abutting property owners.

In addition to these requirements, it is our custom to request that candidates and promoters of ballot measures voluntarily commit to keep signs out of rights of way. A diagram showing recommended placement along roads is enclosed to assist you in complying with this request. A copy of the commitment form also is included. Please file this form along with your permit application.

If you have any questions, please call the Department of Community Development at 397-2375, extension 4489, or visit the office at 1300 Franklin St. in Vancouver.

Thank you for your cooperation and I wish you the best of luck on all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Craig A. Pridemore, Chair

Enclosures

Permit Application  
Diagram of sign placement  
Rights-of-way agreement

Submit to:  
Department of Community Development  
Planning Division  
1300 Franklin Street  
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810  
(360) 397-2375

File No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICATION FOR POLITICAL SIGNS PERMIT

**WE THE UNDERSIGNED**, hereby make application under the terms of Section 18.409.040 (F), Clark County Code, to erect political signs.

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate number of signs: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PERSON RUNNING FOR OFFICE OR BALLOT REFERENDUM #

\_\_\_\_\_

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVAL OF SIGNS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approved by the Director of Planning this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **SIGN PLACEMENT COMMITMENT**

**The undersigned candidate or committee official hereby agrees that best efforts will be employed to ensure that political signs of such candidate (or ballot propositions) will not be placed within road rights-of-way.**

**Name of candidate / ballot proposition:**

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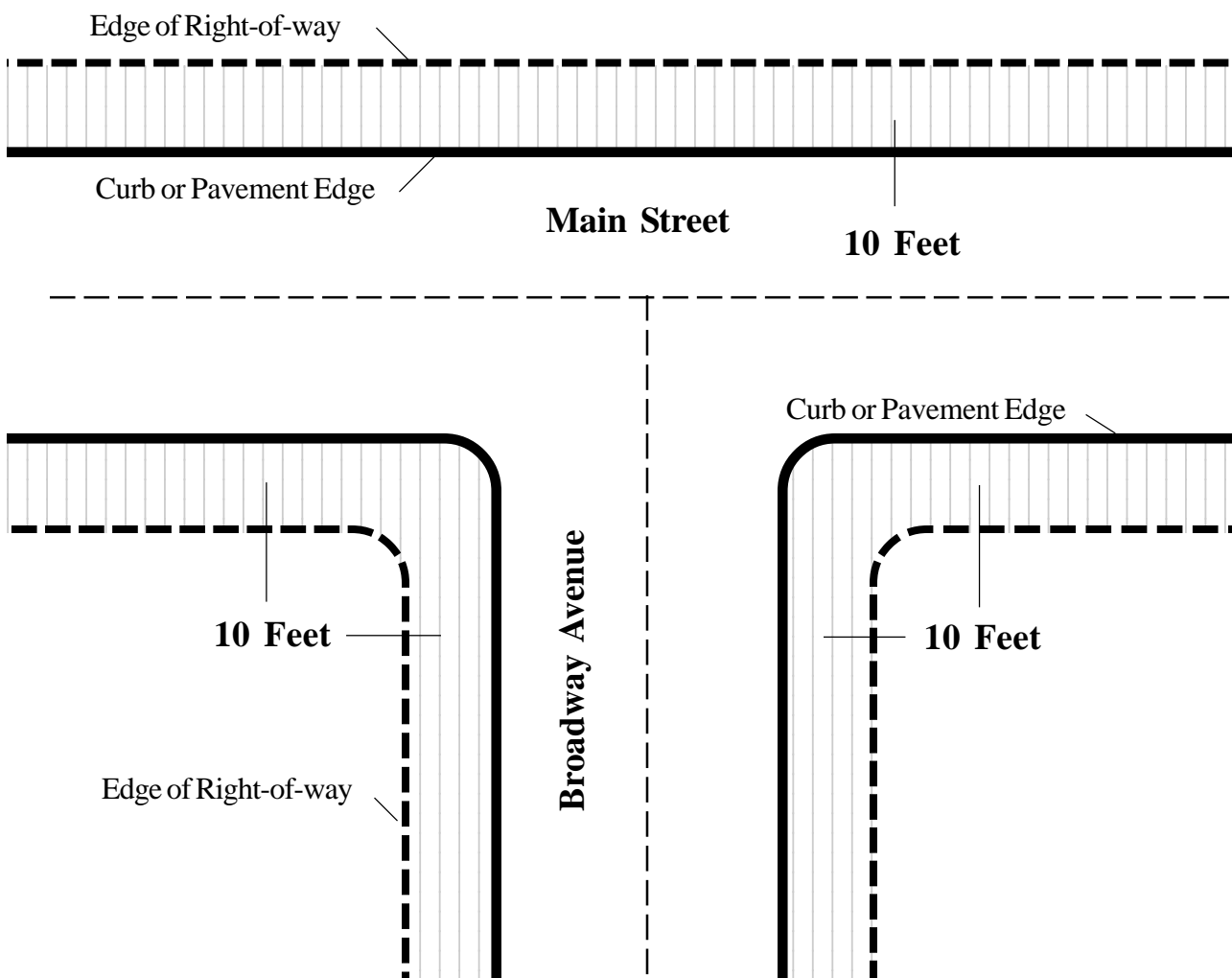
**Date:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_

# CLARK COUNTY

## Placement Diagrams for Political Signs

***We discourage the placement of signs over 3 feet in height upon public property. CCC 12.05A.250 prohibits placement in such a manner as to obstruct the vision of motorists. Removal of all political signs is required after the election.***

**Diagram #1**





**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

Douglas B. MacDonald  
Secretary of Transportation

Transportation Building  
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.  
P.O. Box 47300  
Olympia, WA 98504-7300

360-705-7000  
TTY: 1-800-833-6388  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov)

Dear Candidate:

The Department of Transportation wishes to take this opportunity to advise all candidates regarding the placement of campaign signs and placards along state highways.

RCW 47.42, the Scenic Vistas Act, regulates signing on Interstate Highways, all Primary Highways, and the entire Scenic and Recreational Highway System. Signs erected on private property adjacent to these highways must comply with the Scenic Vistas Act, and local zoning restrictions.

In accordance with **Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 468-66-050, Classification of signs**, political campaign signs are considered a Type 3(b) on-premise sign for which no fee or application is necessary. Temporary political campaign signs are signs which express the property owners endorsement of a political candidate or ballot issue, with the following restrictions:

- Temporary political campaign signs are limited to a maximum size of thirty-two square feet in area.
- Temporary political campaign signs must be removed within ten days after the election.
- Temporary political campaign signs are subject to all other applicable provisions of Chapter 47.42 RCW and Chapter 468-66 WAC that pertain to Type 3 on-premise signs.

In addition to the above restrictions, **the erection of temporary political campaign signs within the right-of-way of all state highways is illegal. Accordingly, signs placed within the right-of-way of any state highway will be removed by the Department of Transportation.**

To assist you with any questions you may have relative to signing for your campaign, please contact the appropriate individual listed on the attached map that identifies the Transportation Region containing the county in which you signed your Declaration of Candidacy.

We sincerely hope that candidates for public office will observe the laws and regulations enacted to protect and preserve the roadside beauty of our state.

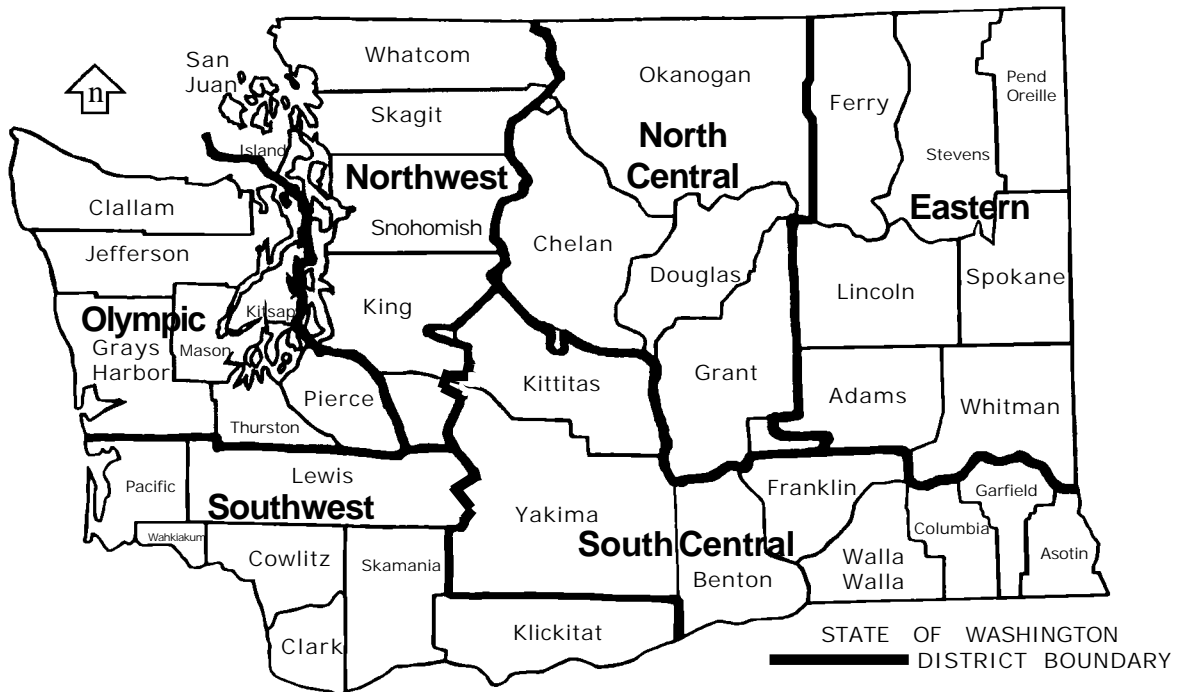
Thank you for your courtesy in this matter.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



# WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT MAP

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## WSDOT DISTRICT OUTDOOR ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES

### Northwest Region (1):

**Mr. Mario Mathisen**

WSDOT

P. O. Box 330310

Seattle, WA 98113-9710

(206) 440-4394

### Southwest Region (4):

**Mr. David Burkey**

WSDOT

P. O. Box 1709

Vancouver, WA 98668-1709

(360) 905-2262

### North Central Region (2):

**Mr. Dave Eakin**

WSDOT

P. O. Box 98

Wenatchee, WA 98801

(509) 667-3077

### South Central Region (5):

**Mr. Ed Barry**

WSDOT

P. O. Box 12560

Yakima, WA 98909-2560

(509) 577-1989

### Olympic Region (3):

**Mr. Gerald Nelson**

WSDOT

P. O. Box 47440

Olympia, WA 98504-7440

(360) 704-3223

### Eastern Region:

**Mr. Richard Moorhead**

WSDOT

2714 North Mayfair Street

Spokane, WA 99207-2090

(509) 324-6551